

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-10 and 12-21 and adds new claims 22-29. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 22-29.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned by telephone so as to discuss the outstanding issues of the present application prior to examination.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner requested that Applicants review the specification to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Amendments were made throughout the specification to correct grammatical and editorial errors discovered upon review. The Examiner is requested to point to any errors the Examiner may be aware of so that correction of such errors can be immediately corrected.

Claims 1-10 and 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Aviv (U.S. Patent No. 6,028,626). As indicated above, claims 1-10 and 12-21 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1-10 and 12-21 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1-10 and 12-21 are taught or suggested by Aviv. The cancellation of claims 1-10 and 12-21 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claims 1-10 and 12-21 in a continuing application.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 22-29. New claims 22-29 are directed to an object tracking method for detecting and tracking an object in a picked-up image based on an image signal acquired by an imaging unit. The object tracking method according to the present invention includes producing a template image of a predetermined size including a part of said object from an image acquired from said imaging unit, conducting a template matching between a present image from said imaging unit and said template image, and detecting a position of a part of said present image matched with said template image as a current template image, detecting an image changing area between at least two frames of images picked up at different time points by said imaging unit, and detecting a position of said object based on said detected image changing area and setting the detected position of said object as a new template image in place of said current template image.

Thus, the present invention resides in that a position of a moving member detected by the template matching is corrected by the inter-frame difference method. That is, since the position where the moving member is estimated to be located is corrected, the more precise position of the moving member can be detected. This is a unique advantage over conventional methods. Such features are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record.

Aviv does not teach or suggest the above described features of the present invention as recited in the claims that a position of a moving member detected by the template matching is corrected by the inter-frame difference method.

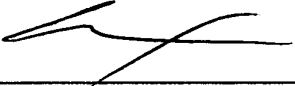
Therefore, the features of the present invention as recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 22-29 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 22-29 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.43348X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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